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PATENT

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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ROJAS-CHAPANA, Jose et al. Conf.: *9/28/01*

Int'l. Appl. No.: PCT/EP99/05272

Appl. No.: New Group: *8/15/01*

Filed: January 30, 2001 Examiner:

For: A PROCESS FOR THE MICROBIAL LEACHING OF SULFIDIC MATERIALS, AND THE USE OF SULFUR-CONTAINING AMINO ACIDS IN SAID MICROBIAL LEACHING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

January 30, 2001

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 1, insert --This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP99/05272 which has an International filing date of July 23, 1999, which designated the United States of America.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 4: Line 1, change "any of claims 1 to 3" to
--claim 1--